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ADDRESS:
HT 1217 B-SVN
C/O
FRONALI PHNOM-PENH
53 Samdech Pann Phnom-Penh
CAMBODIA
★
DAZIMINA HANOI
19 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and other South Viet Nam NFL Missions in foreign countries

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editorial

The hub of the problem is the ending of aggression by the US

SAMPLE

AFTER six months of stubborn procrastinations, the delegations of US government and its puppet administration have been compelled to sit to a round table at the Paris Conference with the delegations of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Government of the DRVN.

At the first plenary session of last Jan. 25, the voice of justice raised by the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people — the NFL — resounded far and wide, expressing the strong, winning position of our armed forces and people, and bringing out in bold relief the authority and the role played by the Front in the settlement of all problems concerning South Viet Nam. The People of Viet Nam as a whole and progressive mankind fully approve and strongly support the just stand of the NFL delegation.

As expounded by the Front's chief delegate, the serious situation at present in South Viet Nam has originated from the brutal policy of colonialist aggression of US imperialism. It is the United States which has impudently trampled upon the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, and rigged up the Saigon administration to unleash armed intervention, then the "special war" and the savage "limited war", countering the South Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace, independence, democracy, improved living conditions, neutrality and national reunification, in an attempt to make of South Viet Nam an American military base and neo-

(Continued page 8)

Ho Thien Nga, one of the eleven girls of Hue city "iron squad" which has put to flight a US battalion after wiping out 120 GI's.

Photo: GPA

Impasse of US military strategy inSouth Viet Nam *(page 2)*

Our position is just, correct, reasonable and logic *(page 4)*

The red arrow *(page 6)*

Impasse of US milit in South Viet

By CUU LONG

PART ONE

1968 will go down into the glorious history of the Vietnamese people as a year of hardest fighting but also of biggest victories, a year that has brought a new turning point.

To the enemy, 1968 was one of the gloomist years in the history of aggression of US imperialism, marked by three big defeats:

— The US was forced to end without conditions the bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam;

— The US had to fall back to an all-round defensive strategy on the South Viet Nam battlefield; and

— The US had to accept talks with the South Viet Nam NFL at the four-party conference in the French capital.

Also in 1968 the US President had to bow of the presidential race, the US Secretary of Defence resigned and the Commander-in-Chief of the US forces in South Viet Nam was removed. These were clear indications of the bitter defeats of the US, all taking place during the generalized offensive and widespread uprising of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam.

The generalized offensive and widespread uprising beginning in late January and early February last year were, in essence, a great, wonderful strategic surprise attack launched by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces on all battlefields stretching over more than one thousand kilometres from Quang Tri in the North to Ca Mau in the South, especially in the towns, the foothold of vital importance to the enemy, including over forty cities, towns and provincial capitals.

This generalized offensive and widespread uprising has shaken the United States and echoed throughout the five continents. It has enabled the South Vietnamese people's resistance to make a tremendous leap forward. It has upset and caused deterioration to the strategic position of the US. No sooner had it been put into effect than the "two-pronged" strategy ("search-and-destroy" and "pacification") was thrown into the dustbin and the US had to switch to an all-round defensive strategy a thing which the US had not anticipated and for which it was ill-prepared. This strategy found its expression in Abram's so-called "hold and clear" and "defence in deepth" plans. By adopting this strategy, the enemy had the following goals in mind:

1. To hold the towns, military bases, important communication lines, and the main delta regions with a dense population and abundant material resources;

2. To keep the US troops from losing more heavily and

3. To keep the puppet army and administration from further disintegration and collapse.

For nearly a year now, this all-round defensive strategy of the US with the three above-mentioned aims however, has been dealt crippling blows and has proved unviable. Since the first days of the early spring offensive and uprising last year, virtually all the cities and towns, military bases, communication lines and the plains under enemy control have been attacked, and attacked repeatedly in some places. Recently the "accelerated pacification" program has also been dealt repeated blows.

The enemy has concentrated on defending the towns. Yet in May 1968, over one hundred US and puppet battalions failed to prevent the PLAF and people from attacking and rising up in almost all the precincts of Saigon over a period of six weeks, wiping out big enemy units, shooting ablaze many tanks, shooting down many helicopters right in the streets and punishing many ranking agents of the US. At many places, the people succeeded in establishing their own control. Ever since, the political and armed struggle in Saigon have never ceased to develop. In certain battles, hundreds of enemy agents were wiped out in this biggest lair of the US—puppets.

Da Nang, the second biggest city and a major military base of the US, could in no way be defended either despite the presence of 2 US divisions, one Pak Jung Hi brigade and 5 puppet regiments, and numerous barbed wire fences surrounding the city on a radius of 30 km. In August, the people and their armed forces launched major attacks against the city, and won big victories. The political struggle there also gained momentum. Added to the victories in Saigon and Da Nang, those at Khe Sanh in June and July, in Tay Ninh in August and September, in Ben Tre, etc. were as many bold-type letters printed on the death sentence against the "clear and hold" plan of the US aggressors.

The enemy tried to keep down US casualty toll, but never before had US troops been wiped out in so big numbers as in 1968. According to the 11th communique of the Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, the number of US and satellite casualties in 1968 reached 239,000 that is nearly as many as the sum total in the seven preceding years. All told in 8 years, the US lost about half a million men. This is the approximate equivalent of the US troops strength in South Viet Nam at its highest level, or one-sixth of the effectives of the US armed forces.

The US tried to keep the puppet army from further disintegration but never before had puppet troops been put out of action on so large numbers as in 1968 (400,000), and never before had they deserted at so high a rate (also in the area of 400,000). As a result, far from increasing the troops strength of the puppet army, the enemy is now unable even to fill the gap left by about one hundred thousand casualties. Since the US had to stop completely and unconditionally its bombardments in North Viet Nam, and accept talks with the NFL in Paris, the puppet army has been rent with new and sharp upheavals, Plagued by defeatism and prompted by the desire for an end to the war, more and more anti-war actions and desertions have occurred in the puppet army. Meanwhile the combat performance and operational and strategic effectiveness of the puppet army have dropped to their lowest.

The US aggressors are seaking to keep the puppet administration from falling but never before has this administration been in so shabby a mood as it is now, both in organization and in prestige. Especially because of its loathsome activities in trying to prevent the unconditional cessation of the bombing of North Viet Nam by the US and to block the four-party conference in Paris, this administration has met with vehement protests from the entire South Vietnamese people including many in the upper strata and puppet armymen and administrative personnel, and has invited stronger anger from the world's people. Its doomsday is not far off.

To defeat the strategic objectives of the US aggressors, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces have outmanoeuvred the main tactics in the enemy's "hold and clear" plan.

Because of the very low morale and poor performance of the US infantry, and in an effort to prevent heavier losses for the US forces, the US has relied heavily on aircraft and artillery, especially B-52 strategic bombers. Yet, it has been amply proven that neither aircraft, whether it is B-52s, jet fighter-bombers or armed helicopters, nor any kind of gun, can save the US aggressors from over heavier setbacks, as can be seen in the big victories of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in Saigon, Da Nang, Hue, Khe Sanh, A Shau, and Tay Ninh, where enemy fire power has been the biggest. On the other hand, the more aircraft and big guns the enemy put to use, the higher the records the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in the destruction of these war means.

For defensive purposes, the US has resorted to defence perimeters setting multi-layer defences around one city, one base, or one area, and, to prevent attacks, each of these perimeters was made to include several fire-support and operational bases and roads for transportation and troops mobility. In the countryside, small fortified complexes have been built; and for the protection of these and the adjacent communication lines, the enemy has used barbarous methods to clear the ground, and taken very strict security measures. Combining static with mobile tactics, the enemy has launched consecutive police operations, relief operations, probes, "counter-preparation" operations, pre-emptive operations, etc., with the main emphasis on "armor tactics," But it is also clear that this tactics, too, has failed. Series of fire support and operational bases have fallen, especially in Tay Ninh province, while ambushes have never ceased on all roads and waterways.

In fact, erecting such defence perimeters is like trying to dam up a flood with a fence. At many places they have been broken by big chunks, at others, they have been breached. Not a single town, not a single base of the enemy has been immune to attack.

The enemy has also been defeated in their other tactics and methods, such as the use of "pacification" teams, the "Eagle" espionnage operation, the use of commandos, or the "leap-frogging" operations to spy on, sabotage and nibble at the liberated areas, and to prevent the attacks and uprising by the PLAF and the people.

The enemy has failed in all tactics of his defensive strategy. He has failed to attain any objective set for this strategy, and all the forces he has used in this strategy have sustained heavy defeats. The so-called "hold and clear" plan of the US is going down the drain, to the utter helplessness of Abrams.

PART TWO

THE US failure has become evident, and its "clear and hold" strategy has unquestionably gone bankrupt. This is because US is faced with innumerable and unsurmountable difficulties and contradictions, like a man who develops many incurable diseases at the same time.

Contradiction between the aggressive schemes of the US and the new epoch of manhind.

The war in South Viet Nam has the character of a bitter national struggle. It reflects the character and content of the great epoch we are living in — the epoch of offensive of the world revolution, of defeats and irretrievable collapse of imperialism, whether in the form of colonialism or neo-colomialism, and of irresistible victories of socialism and the national liberation movement, especially now that the socialist countries have formed a powerful camp, a factor that decides the trend of development of the world's history and an immense source of support and inspiration to socialist and national liberation revolutions. It is precisely in such an epoch that the US started a ruthless war of aggression. Having to acknowledge the bankruptcy of old-type colonialism, and to resort to neo-colonialism in a very crafty and obdurate manner, the US, however, has firmly chosen to send an expeditionary army for furthering its aggressive schemes. There can be no better indication of the issueless tunnel and of the path of defeat the US has embarked on.

Contradiction between the objectives of the war of aggression and the defensive strategy.

The aim of a war of aggression is to destroy the forces

ary strategy Nam

and grab the territory and resources of the adversary. This, naturally, requires an offensive strategy. Yet, just while none of its objectives has been achieved and, what is more, just while it is sustaining very heavy losses in all fields, the US has turned to an all-round defensive strategy which, naturally will not help it attain its goals, but will only prolong the war and increase its losses.

At one time, to retrieve its setbacks in South Viet Nam, the US has to conduct a war of destruction against North Viet Nam. But, after heavy defeats in both parts of Viet Nam, the US had to stop the bombardments on the whole territory of North Viet Nam, thus acknowledging the defeat of half of its war. For the other half of the war the US having subtained heavy defeats, difficulties are now snow-balling. All this is the best avowal of defeat by the US

This basic contradiction has given rise to a series of contradictions in the US-puppet command and leadership and drastically reduced the combat effectiveness and caused the moral of the US and puppet armymen to sink beyond recovery at the very moment when the US and puppets still have a numerous army.

3. Contradiction between the speciality tactics, equipment and organisation of the enemy's army and its strategy.

Prepared and trained mainly for offensive, the US forces are very cumbersome in their organisation and equipment. Their cult being mobility, they are very weak in defensive. Now being forced into the defensive, the US has lost many advantages in weaponry and technique, and has become confused in command and tactics. For instance, the US has used tanks half buried in bunkers to provide protection for a position, thus depriving the tanks of all their assault and mobile ability, and their fire power is also greatly reduced. Another instance: troops of the "Air Mobile Cavalry Division" of the strategic reserve, have been sent to defend very scattered positions. How can it maintain its "wonderful" mobility of which former US Defence Secretary Mc Namara once boasted so loudly? The US thus has to rely on many of its weaknesses instead of what it believes to be its strong points. Consequently, its strategy is in a deadlock, and its tactics are in a mess.

4. Contradiction between the requirements and utilisation of forces.

US troops are playing the role of workhorse of the war of aggression in South Viet Nam although they are unequal to this role. But, because of the political, military, economic and financial difficulties at home and of the requirements of its global strategy, the US is contemplating to "de-Americanise" the war, switching the brunt of the war onto the seriously decaying puppet army. There lies a big vicious circle for the US

In fact, in 1965, when the puppet army and administration proved unable to cope with the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces, the US had to pour in its own troops for a direct aggression. Its purpose was to employ both US troops and the puppet army as strategic forces. With the involvement of US troops, the puppet army, however, became worse, and ever since, has been relegated to the role of housekeeper, or assigned to "pacification". Now, with US troops themselves facing the danger of complete defeat, the US tries to push the puppet army to the frontline in an attempt to save itself from defeat. It is just like using a drowning man to save a sinking boat.

5. Contradiction, between demagogic policies and brutal military moves.

For the realisation of its neo-colonialist policy and to hoodwink the public in the world and "win the hearts and minds" of the South Vietnamese people the US has posed as a good "friend" and pretended to respect the right of self-determination" of the South Vietnamese people. The puppets themselves are putting on a "democratic", "national" "legal", and "constitutional" facade. But, in the face of the grim resistance of the South Viet Nam revolution, both the US and the puppets have had to resort to very brutal acts, even towards the towns people.

This contradiction, which has already existed, becomes all the more acute.

The US is also facing many other contradictions, between the necessity to back up the puppet army and increase its numerical strength, and the real capability of doing so between heavy tasks and exacting requirements, between the very low ability and quality of US puppet troops who perform very poorly in both offensive and defensive; between the need for a very big force and the very low ceiling of troops increase; between the concentration and dispersion of forces; between the need to protect the towns, bases and communication lines, and the ambition to control the countryside, etc.

All these contradictions and difficulties are threatening the US war of aggression with complete failure, and are seriously shaking the aggressive design of the ring-leaders of American war-mongers.

But the US aggressors are incurably stubborn. They still count on a fairly numerous army and a big amount of weapons and bombs to make desperate efforts in order to conceal their setbacks and difficulties, hide their confusion, and salvage what can. They have not yet opened their eyes to the bitter fact that the longer the war, the heavier their setbacks.

At present, they are trying to carry out these sinister schemes:

1) Adjust the strategic deployment. They have just moved the 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division south from Quang Tri — Thua Thien to defend at all costs the eastern part of Nam Bo and the Saigon — Gia Dinh area.

2) Knock together a group of henchmen and launch the so-called "accelerated pacification" plan aimed at seizing control of 1,000 hamlets and dislodging one million inhabitants from contested areas. Other agents are being formed into "Phoenix" commando groups, whose job is to assassinate patriots.

3) Try to "prevent Vietcong attacks" by most barbarous means such as cutting off roads, blocking waterways, closing frontiers, using B.52s and artillery, napalm and bulldozers, razing whole hamlets, burning whole jungles, and destroying rice-fields in order to set up a no-man's-land around their strongholds, thus causing misery to so many people. In the towns, they order curfew, searches, arrests and wanton murders, trampling upon all democratic liberties of the people.

4) Set to motion their huge psywar machinery, make a noisy campaign about their "strength" "victories", "good will", and so on, to deceive the people, dampen the morale of our cadres and fighters, sow discord between our armed forces and people,

(Continued on page 7)

Destroying a US steel monster.
Painting by Duc Luu

Even with infantry weapons, our guerillas succeed in shooting down US aircraft

Aiming straight, shooting right, the SVN fighters defend every inch of their homeland

An enemy motorized convoy set afire in an ambush on Can Tho — Soc Trang highway

Photos: GPA

OUR POSITION IS JUST, CORRECT, REASONABLE AND LOGIC

(Statement by Mr. TRAN BUU KIEM, Chief of the Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, at the first plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam held in Paris on January 25, 1969)

* Unofficial translation *

ON behalf of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and on the occasion of the first plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to President Charles De Gaulle and the French Government for providing facilities for this Conference and their friendly welcome to the Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. I also sincerely thank the French people and the peoples throughout the world who have been showing their warm approval and strong support to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

The Paris Conference on Viet Nam is a four—party conference comprising : the Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Delegation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the delegation of the US government and the delegation of the Saigon administration. Representing all patriotic forces in South Viet Nam who over the past ten years have been fighting heroically and defeating the US aggressors and their lackeys, the Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, in the capacity of an independent and equal party, participates in this conference to hold serious talks in order to find out a correct political settlement for the South Viet Nam problem, in accordance with the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the interests of the American people, and in response to the demand of the peace-and justice-loving people throughout the world.

In order to work out such a settlement, it is necessary to clearly assess the developments in South Viet Nam and to set up a correct basis in conformity with the reality. And what is the reality ?

Everyone with knowledge of Viet Nam realizes that fighting foreign aggression in defence of the Fatherland is the thousand-year-old tradition of the Vietnamese nation of which South Viet Nam is an indivisible part.

As a result of the victory of the Vietnamese people over aggression, the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam were signed. These agreements solemnly recognize the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam.

As regards South Viet Nam, the spirit and letter of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam stipulate that South Viet Nam is only a temporary regrouping zone and that Viet Nam must be reunified by nationwide free general elections to be held in 1965. These Agreements guarantee the democratic liberties for the South Vietnamese people, prohibit terrorism and reprisals against the patriots taking part in the resistance war, forbid foreign military reinforcement of any kind and the installation of foreign military bases in South Viet Nam.

The representative of theUS government at the Geneva Conference on Viet Nam had committed himself not to prevent the implementation of these agreements. However, this hypocritical statement was merely to cover up US criminal plots : during the past 14 years, the US government has unceasingly sabotaged the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, undermining the reunification of Viet Nam, prolonging the partition of the country, trying to occupy South Viet Nam and turn it into a US new colony and military base, in an attempt to make South Viet Nam a springboard to conquer the whole Viet Nam and to repress the struggle of the nations in South East Asia for national liberation.

The US policy is utterly perfidious and barbarous. The United States has rigged up in South Viet Nam a most ferocious and blood-thirsty puppet administration serving as an instrument to suppress the South Viet Nam people's aspirations for peace, independence, democracy and reunification.

Under US orders, the dictatorial fascist puppet administration has resorted to unprecedented barbarous and inhuman acts of killing, terrorizing and torturing the former resistance members as well as some millions of innocent people in South Viet Nam. They grabbed back land previously distributed to the peasants by the revolutionary administration, abolished all democratic liberties in the hope of erasing all achievements which the South Viet Nam people have gained with their blood. Anyone who loves peace, independence and reunification, anyone who desires democratic liberties and the improvement of living conditions, regardless of his political tendency, religion and social stratum is termed "communist" and savagely massacred by the US and the puppet administration.

The US and its lackeys thought that by their monstrous crimes they could suppress the will of the South Viet Nam people for independence and freedom. But, they have made a big mistake !

Since the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam were signed, the South Viet Nam people together with the whole country have resolutely struggled for a correct implementation of these agreements. The United States and its lackeys have not only refused to implement the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam but also used the force of arms to savagely repress the South Vietnamese people. The South Vietnamese people, therefore, have to fight back.

Since the end of 1959, the "simultaneous uprisings" movement has broken out in the Mekong delta and then spread throughout South Viet Nam. The peasants whose land was taken away and whose life was confined in "prosperous zones" and "agrovilles", the former resistance members who were being pursued, the Buddhists, Catholics, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao believers suffering from terrorism, and mountain people driven away from their home and in dire need of food... all have risen up with hoes, knives, sticks, rifles in their hands against the domination of the US and the puppet administration, breaking free from the enemy's grip, wresting back the right to live, saving their homeland and families. In the cities, workers, businessmen, intellectuals, students... have also surged up to fight.

Being born in this high tide of revolution, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has rallied under its lofty banner all strata of the South Vietnamese people regardless of age, sex, nationalities, political tendencies or religions.

The Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has clearly pointed out the task of fighting against US aggression, for national salvation : to unite the entire people, resolutely defeat the US imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow their lackeys, the puppet administration, establish a broad democratic national union administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and presperous South Viet Nam, and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

The Political Program of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has responded to the sacred obligations toward the Fatherland and the legitimate interests of the entire people. This is the reason why the Political Program has been warmly welcomed by the people from all walks of life in South Viet Nam. The movement of national liberation has risen up like a tidal wave.

Frightened by this movement, the United States launched the "special war" against our people, using hundreds of thousands of mercenaries of the Saigon administration under the direct command of US "advisers".

The strategy of "special war", however, could not quench the flames of the South Viet Nam people's struggle, and the United States has to "change horses in midstream", snuffing out the life of the two quislings Ngo Dinh Diem and Ngo Dinh Nhu, discarding the first Saigon puppet administration rigged up by the United States. This event has marked the first bankruptcy in the US policy of neo-colonialism, and revealed the true nature of the US aggressors and the Diem-Nhu traitorous puppet administration.

When the "special war" was completely defeated, the Saigon puppet regime was facing the danger of a total collapse, the US directly jumped in, and massively brought to South Viet Nam half a million of its expeditionary troops to wage a "local war" against our people, a colonialist war of unprecedented scale. The US also escalated the war, carrying out a "war of destruction" against North Viet Nam with its air, naval and artillery forces, thus piling up crimes against the people of both zones of our country.

In carrying out the war against the South Viet Nam people, the United States does not only aim at conquering our country, but also at using South Viet Nam as "testing ground" for their most barbarous weapons and war means.

The US aggression constitutes the greatest crime against the Vietnamese people, the American people and the people of the world. It is also the biggest mistake in the US policy, the US has failed to subdue the 14 million South Vietnamese people. By extending the war to North Viet Nam, the US thought it could retrieve its defeat in South Viet Nam and hold back the solid unity of the 31 million Vietnamese people against foreign aggression. But the reality is in sharp contrast with this. The US government has sustained defeat after defeat. It is being condemned even at home and becomes more isolated than ever in the international arena. The defeat of the United States in the Viet Nam war is now indisputable. The more

the US pursues this unjust war the heavier defeat it will sustain.

For their part, the South Vietnamese people deeply cherish peace, and eagerly want to live in freedom and independence in their country. The United States invades South Viet Nam and attacks us, we are compelled to fight back to defend our country. There is no alternative! We have a just cause, the US aggressors and their lackeys have an unjust one. The just cause of national liberation has developed to the highest degree with the strength of the 14 million South Vietnamese people and brought about the ever greater sympathy and support of the people of the whole Viet Nam, of the peace- and justice- loving peoples throughout the world, including millions of people in the US. We have defeated the US "special war" we are now defeating its "local war" and will surely win final victory.

If the US wants to avoid heavier defeat and have an honourable peace, it must stop its aggression, withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference. This is the logic of things, this is the urgent demand of our people, of the American people and of the people in the world.

In its war of aggression against South Viet Nam, the US government stubbornly sticks to the Saigon administration and makes it an instrument and screen for its policy of neo-colonialism. To give the puppets a "legal, constitutional" cover, the US staged an illegal and fraudulent "election" under the control of over one million US, puppet and satellite troops. However, these deceptions, bayonets, guillotines, prisons and all other fascist methods could not prevent the continuous collapse of the US-installed puppet administrations.

The present Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, like Diem-Nhu in the past, are quislings, dictators, militarists. They lend the United States a hand in daily massacring the people, ravaging the country, demolishing numerous cultural edifices of the nation, violating the dignity and sentiments of the people, spreading corruption in the social life of the areas controlled by the US and its puppet administration. Over the past 14 years, not a single family in South Viet Nam has been safe from suffering and mourning. As a US instrument in the "local war", the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique proves most bellicose, and obstinately clings to the US war, opposes the people's aspirations for independence and peace. Therefore, people from all walks of life in South Viet Nam are determined to fight against them. In the cities, in spite of ferocious repression, the people's movement is strongly rising up, demanding the overthrow of Thieu-Ky-Huong and the establishment of a "peace-restoring cabinet" having the goodwill to negotiate at the four-party conference and considering the National Liberation Front as an independent and equal party fully competent to solve all South Viet Nam problems in order to find out a political settlement bringing about independence, peace and neutrality to South Viet Nam on the basis of the principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. These are most legitimate and pressing demands. Those are also evidences that the present Thieu-Ky-Huong administration does not represent anyone.

Crystallizing the great union of the whole South Viet Nam people, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is organizing and leading the South Vietnamese people to fight and to win victory over the US aggressors and their lackeys. The Front's correct policies and line are approved and supported by all strata of the South Vietnamese population, including many members of the Saigon administration and army. The Front possesses mighty political and military forces, it has liberated four fifths of the South Viet Nam territory with 11 million people, it has organized democratic elections of the people's liberation administration almost everywhere. The Front is actually a democratic administration. It has high prestige in the country and in the international arena. The Front is the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, having the decisive voice and full competence in the settlement of all problems regarding South Viet Nam. If the US government really wants to find a political solution to the South Viet Nam problem, it must seriously talk with the National Front for Liberation.

In fact, because of its defeat in the war of aggression in South Viet Nam and in the war of destruction in North Viet Nam, the US was forced to unconditionally stop its bombing raids on the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to sit at the conference table with the participation of the representatives of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. At this conference, we are prepared to discuss and find a correct political solution to the South Viet Nam problem. We have clearly expounded our position on such a solution in the November 3, 1968 statement of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. That is:

1. South Viet Nam is resolved to struggle for the materialisation of its sacred rights, namely independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity, and ultimate peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

2. The US imperialists must put an end to their war of aggression against Viet Nam, withdraw all their troops and those of their satellites, and all their war means from South Viet Nam, and liquidate all US military bases in South Viet Nam.

3. The internal affairs of South Viet Nam must be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of the NFL, without foreign interference. A broad democratic national union government must be established, and free general elections must be held in South Viet Nam.

4. The reunification of Viet Nam will be decided by the people in the two zones of Viet Nam, step by step, by peaceful means, and on the basis of consultations and agreements between the two zones, without foreign interference.

5. South Viet Nam will pursue a foreign policy of peace and neutrality: no military alliance in any form with foreign, establishment of friendly relations with all countries on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Good neighbourhood relations will be set up with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of the respect for her independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity within her present borders, and with Laos on the basis of respect for the 1962 Geneva Agreements concerning that country.

Our position is just, correct, conforming to sentiments and reason to peacefully settle the Viet Nam problem, consistent with our people's legitimate and inviolable rights, and with world peace and security. This position is enjoying the full support of the South Vietnamese people, and of the entire people throughout Viet Nam. The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces in South Viet Nam embracing patriotic people including a great number of personalities, intellectuals, religious men, industrialists, businessmen, enterprise owners, students, civil servants, and Saigon army officers, also fully approves this position. The peace-and justice-loving people throughout the world also are in sympathy with this position. If the US really wants to put an end to this war, which costs it so many lives and resources and is detrimental to the American honor and prestige, it must respect this position."

"But, so far, no sign of this desire of the US has appeared. Though speaking of peace negotiations, the US still carries on the war. Since it has been forced to unconditionally stop all bombardments on North Viet Nam, the US has concentrated its air and naval forces to fiercely attack South Viet Nam, and the liberated areas, in Laos, and has unceasingly carried out provocative attacks against the Kingdom of Cambodia. The US continues to bring additional satellite troops to South Viet Nam, to send American, satellite and Saigon troops to launch bloody sweeps, step up the so-called "accelerated pacification program," intensify the spraying of toxic chemicals, frantically and indiscriminately bomb populous areas with B. 52s, and arrest and terrorize people living in towns. It continues to infringe upon the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The Thieu-Ky-Huong administration created the law 10-68, promulgated the "state of war" resulting in an extremely strained situation, repressed the urban people's movement demanding peace and freedom. The US and the Saigon administration have delayed and hindered the Paris Conference on Viet Nam which should have been opened on November 6, 1968. Those facts show that the United States and the Saigon administration are still very obdurate and bellicose. The US is not yet resigned to abandon its wicked scheme of aggression against South Viet Nam.

We really desire peace, but it must be peace in independence and freedom. So long as the US continues its aggression against South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people will continue their fight.

A unit of the PLAF, on the impetus of their victories, in pursuit of enemy troops
Photo: GPA

For the independence and freedom of their Fatherland, and for their sacred obligation towards the nations in the world, the South Vietnamese people are determined to fight and to win. They are resolved to fulfil the task of liberating South Viet Nam, defending North Viet Nam, and advancing towards the peaceful reunification of their Fatherland, thus contributing to the safeguarding of peace in Asia and the world.

The South Vietnamese people are very proud of their tradition of national unity, of the wholehearted effort of their 17 millions compatriots in the North who stand shoulder to shoulder with them to accomplish the duty of the big rear towards the big front.

The South Vietnamese people firmly believe that the peace—, freedom and justice-loving peoples and governments all over the world will give further and stronger support and assistance to their just struggle. The South Vietnamese people warmly appreciate the courageous opposition of various strata of American people to the US government's policy of aggression in Viet Nam in the legitimate interests of the two peoples.

The delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has come to this conference with a just position and serious attitude, and in the hope that the conference will achieve results.

On behalf of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, our delegation has clearly expounded the above fundamental position, and now declares its readiness, on the basis of this position, to proceed, together with the other parties, to the work of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

The Red Arrow

The battle of Trang Bang had hardly ended when the story about the "Red Arrow" began spreading to all units of the regiment. It captivated everyone's attention and elicited great enthusiasm. It was the story of platoon leader Pham Ngoc Giai, one of the elite fighters who had distinguished themselves in the battle.

Here is the story of his exploit:

Soon after contributing to the liquidation of a puppet battalion sent from Saigon, Giai was slightly wounded in the head by a grenade splinter. This did not prevent him from joining in the following operation. When his unit reached Trang Bang, a big enemy convoy was reported. The order came immediately from the superior command, "Get it!"

Soon after the Liberation armymen took up their positions along the road, the enemy started a violent artillery barrage, which felled scores of trees and kicked up clouds of dust. Thoi, a new recruit who was cleaning his B.40 bazooka in a combat trench, had a scornful smile. "The Yanks" he said, "must have plenty of ammunition to waste." Giai told him, "Take it easy, boy!" Then he took out of his pocket a red silk scarf, which had been given him by the people in the rear, and used it to bandage his head wound anew. The two loose ends of the scarf were left to hang behind his neck.

After each enemy salve, Giai would ask his comrades, "Everybody all right?" They would all answer, "Everyone's fine!"

Hardly had the barrage ended when the enemy convoy loomed in the distance. The site of the ambush was open terrain, made all the more so by the artillery shells, which had knocked down the few remaining trees. In the sky, spotter planes were circling; a few choppers were hovering over the convoy, like roosters fooling around a flock of hens. Tanks and armoured personnel carriers rolled slowly along. Above them, jet fighter planes dived and climbed, seemingly to prop up the morale of the men on the ground. The engines made a deafening noise. Gradually, the convoy approached the site of the ambush. It was closely watched by the Liberation armymen in their combat positions, who were waiting for the order to attack.

Two M.41 tanks rolled by, followed by two M.113 armoured personnel carriers, firing their heavy machineguns at random. Giai, glancing round, saw Zung taking aim.

"Bang" A B. 40 shot gave the signal for the attack. Our bazookas, machineguns and automatic rifles unleashed a hail of steel.

"Stop them at both ends, strike hard!" Giai shouted, jumping out of his shelter.

The hurricane of fire increased in violence.

"Thoi, get that tank!" Giai cried. "Squad 2, give support to Squad 3!" — "Send that B.40 over here!"

The enemy was thrown into utter disarray. Suddenly, the air resounded with the hurrahs of our assault troops.

Amidst the tidal wave of liberation troops battering the enemy convoy, one could see Giai darting forward, the two loose ends of his red scarf fluttering behind his head. Bullets whezeed and whined. A mechinegun on an enemy APC was firing... Giai fell, but was up again in a second. Nothing could stop him. Soon a burst from his submachinegun silenced the APC's machinegun.

"He has captured the armoured car!" shouted his comrades. Indeed, the red-scarfed head was now sticking out of the turret of the vehicle. Soon Giai was shooting at the helicopters with the captured enemy heavy machinegun. One burst downed a chopper; the rest quickly turned tail. But then the jet fighters dived on him, screaming and screeching. A napalm container fell not far from Giai, spewing up a column of black smoke. But he did not turn a hair and calmly waited for the F.105 come within range. Hardly had his gun fired a burst when the plane reeled and burst into flames... Two more were brought down by Giai and his comrade Mêm, before the battle ended.

For its parts, the unit under Platoon Commander Linh had captured five enemy armoured vehicles and put out of action the last American survivors.

All enemy aircraft had turned tail. A fresh breeze was blowing, driving away the fumes from burning enemy vehicles, but the air still reeked of powder. Amidst the general stillness, one could hear the hum of the captured vehicles and the moans of a few Yanks bound hand and foot.

It was then that a fighter came up to Giai and handed him a ball of rice. Smiling, he said, "Eat, Red Arrow, today you've fought wonderfully!"

The nickname has stuck with him over since.

GIANG LU AN

Letter from Hue

We are well prepared

"Brother N,

In these hours, I find it necessary to confide to you my most sincere, most earnest sentiments and tell you what has matured and seethed in our hearts after a good deal of thinking, searching and trial, particularly since we met and fought side by side with you in Hue city during the Tet offensive. Those days were unexpected for us, but how splendid they were! Your entry in the old capital tore off the dark veil of mendacious propaganda with which the US-puppets had attempted to conceal the truth to us in cities for more twenty years.

Now we have fully understood the shining fundamentals of the NFL's great struggle. The US and their lackeys have impudently slandered the NFL and tried to sully your bright images. Try as they might, however, they have failed. The Americans have gradually unmasked themselves and appeared in their true colours as imperialist aggressors. The Saigon stooges are but a swarm of bluebottles clinging to the US dollar. The Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate is only a gang of lackeys and hooligans, of puppets reared by the Americans to repress and dominate the South Vietnamese people.

As you have seen, students, pupils and youths in all cities of South Viet Nam have risen up. We have spanned over the frightful abyss of dark thoughts imbued with defeatism and pessimism, overcomed the temptations of the senses earthy, egoistic pursuits such as wealth and social position, of night-clubs and street-walkers, of bambling and drinking... All this is the way opened to us by the US and its flunkeys to ensnare us and eventually turn us into khaki-uniformed hirelings opposed to the people's just struggle.

Being fully aware of all the enemy schemes, we have resisted forcible conscription, torn up draft cards and boycotted all farcical "elections" and "civilian defence" organisations.

Dear brother, I think that most of us have acted as everyone should do. In South Viet Nam, all the youths are thinking up some way or other to dodge the puppet military service. Many of us have been arrested, tortured, killed, imprisoned or exiled for having participated in, opposed to the US-puppets, such as the students' movement for the restoration of peace, the people's self-determination movement, the youth and students' movements for democracy and labour protection, the Liberation Students' Union, the Association for Preservation of the National Culture...

The puppets have resorted to large-scale repression, stopping at no barbarous acts. They have arrested, tortured, murdered patriotic students, and continue doing so in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam.

We have found no other way out. We have thrown into the Perfume River all the barriers set up by the Americans on Duy Tan Street, armed ourselves and organised death-volunteer student units, burned and destroyed the USIS and the US Embassy buildings, and closely followed your steps on the path you have charted. In our fight, we always feel that the NFL is beside us particularly when we have the opportunity to read the Political Program of the Front.

During the Tet offensive on Hue city, we had enough time and opportunity to witness your gallantry under the NFL's glorious banner, in defiance of the aggressors' bombs and shells.

Dear brother

Since then, I have taken a fancy to you, NFL fighters intrepid but unassuming with your duckwed-shaped hat, and I like so much the AK rifle in your hands, and also your smile. Through your boldness and sacrifices, I have realised and learned from the rock-like will and just pride of a people determined to defeat the enemy. I feel so happy to remember the days when I was allowed to fight side by side with you under the NFL's triumphant banner.

Perhaps I cannot tell you now all I want to. I hope you will note that the Hue people and ourselves are well prepared, with a firm confidence in the NFL, for the coming fight to liberate the cities. December 20, marking the 8th founding anniversary of the NFL, will be a great historic day for all the youth in Hue. The Hueans always think of the NFL and are eagerly waiting for you...

We affectionately send to you and to all our friends out there our best regards and greetings of certain victory."

Very affectionately yours
HO VAN

(*Continued from page 3*)

and between our people and the National Front for Liberation.

But, again, they have miscalculated!

They want to keep the eastern part of Nam Bo and the Saigon—Gia Dinh area. But these areas with a "long tradition and a long record of brilliant victories over US—puppet troops, and a shining example in the generalized offensive and uprising, are now stronger than ever. In the past 40 days, the people and their armed forces there have trounced the 1st Air Cav, putting out of action 2 battalions, 6 companies, and over 70 aircraft. They will surely shatter all the new plots against their native land by the US—puppets.

Together with Eastern Nam Bo and Saigon—Gia Dinh, our armed forces and people in all the other parts of South Viet Nam, including places from which the enemy have withdrawn, will dash forward fearlessly to win the biggest victories possible.

The enemy want to carry out his "accelerated pacification" program. This is sheer foolishness, and a vicious circle! Have they forgotten that at one time they did attempt to "pacify" on a massive scale only to suffer bitter defeats, and blamed one another for "impatience" and "perfunctoriness", then turned to "pacifying" key areas instead? They must also have forgotten that even the "pacification" of key areas failed, and the "pacification" program as a whole has been reduced to ashes in the flames of the generalized offensive and uprising of our armed forces and people since early last year. Now with a new mettle, our armed forces and people will certainly wipe out the bastards who are trying to do the dirty job in which their predecessors have failed again and again. They will make utterly bankrupt the current "accelerated pacification" program, wipe out the "Phoenix" commandos, and punish those who are attempting, with the shabby puppet flag to usurp the revolutionary gains our armed forces and people have won at the cost of much blood.

The enemy want to prevent the attacks and uprisings of our armed forces and people. This is but an old scheme with old methods, old measures and old tactics, which all have met with humiliating failure and will fail even more humiliatingly.

As to the enemy's psy war, one should ask how the US and puppets, who have failed so steadily and are being tcared out of their wits, can threaten and cheat our armed forces and people who are the victor and are advancing towards the biggest victories.

Of course, we will never slacken vigilance before each concrete savage move of the enemy. Yet, in evaluating the US-puppets, we must grasp the full extent of their strategic defeats and weaknesses. We must persist in our resolve and offensive position, and, aiming at the basic sharpest contradictions in the strategy of the US aggressors, we must attack them continually and success is sure to belong to us. Meanwhile, in attacks, we must heighten vigilance, resolutely foil all concrete plots and methods of the enemy, and overcome all difficulties and hardships, in order to advance, step by step but promptly, to complete victory.

Impasse of US military strategy in South Viet Nam

PART THREE

THE impasse of the US military strategy in South Viet Nam is quite obvious. It is not only seen by the world public, but also publicly owned by the most stubborn White House rulers. This impasse can be summed up as follows:

1. The US has used, for its "local war" here, the largest numbers of troops and the biggest quantity of the most modern kinds of weapons it can afford, and more than planned by American strategists. The US expeditionary corps is being used to such an extent that it has affected every aspect of the life in the US. Even so, the US has achieved none of its strategic objectives, and has now to speak of withdrawal, troops decrease, etc. This is one of the clearest indications of the impasse of the US strategy.

2. The US has used up all the imaginable political manoeuvres to conceal the aggressive, unjust character of its war, and to distort the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people. The claim that the US is the "defender of freedom" has lost all its charm. Even the ring-leaders of the US aggressors cannot find anything more to beautify their "allies" while the puppets are telling in the face of their American "friends" that they are the aggressors and gangsters. While the US keeps distorting the just character of the South Vietnamese struggle, more flags of the NFL are seen flutter, right in the United States and other parts of the world. In fact, the US cannot produce any other mask to hide its face and the faces of its puppets. In this respect, too, the US has come to a deadlock.

3. The US has also used up all its military methods, tactics and strategies. The "two prong" strategic plan has been readjusted and renovated again and again, but still it is unusable. As to the "pacification" program, from a large scale, it has been sized down to "key areas", and when this failed, too, the US calls for "accelerated pacification" in one or two months instead of eighteen or twelve months as first intended. Military operations, too, have completed a circle, from small scale to large scale and now back to small scale. In many respects, the military plans and methods of the US-puppets have got into a vicious circle.

4. Financially, the US has spent huge sums on this war — nearly one hundred billion dollars in four years, or the approximate equivalent of its annual budget — without achieving any of its goals. The violent impact of the war on the economy at home is urging the US government to cut war expeditures. That is also an imperative demand of the American people. Thus, rich as it is, the US has reached the barrier for its war expeditures in Viet Nam.

5. The kernel of the US neo-colonialist scheme is to create a puppet regime capable of controlling and deceiving. Yet, the US now has picked such third-class puppets as "president Nguyen Van Thieu", a one-time lieutenant of the puppet army under the French, and "vice-president" Nguyen Cao Ky — ex-flying officer under the French and currently gangster and procurer to the GI's. Even these chieftains of the puppets are calling one another "puppet". Army officers are weary, and soldiers are fed up with the war. Here also lies the impasse of the US for even with five hundred thousand troops and millions of tons of bombs and shells it has failed to shore up its puppets.

Such is the overall impasse of the US military strategy. We can, therefrom, draw this conclusion: The US is sure to be defeated. The South Vietnamese people will certainly be the victor. The US has lost, is losing, and will lose more heavily.

Indeed, one more day of obduracy means one more day of defeat for the US. Obdurate even is its impasse, the US will only sustain heavier and more humiliating defeats.

A very great opportunity is open to all the patriotic armed forces and the entire people of South Viet Nam, and they are stirred by a very great resolve: "As long as there is a single aggressor in our country, we must fight on to sweep him away!" Holding high the banner of justice, they are determined to win complete victory.

A unit of the ever-victorious PLAF sets off for new exploits

Photo: GPA

Old senseless allegations by the US and its puppets categorically rejected

THE first plenary session of the Paris conference on Viet Nam opened at 10.30 a.m. (Paris time) on January 25, 1969 at the International Conference Centre.

The delegations of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the United States and the Saigon administration gathered about a round solid table 8 metres in diametre covered in green baize placed at the huge meeting room of the International Conference Centre. Hundreds of journalists, cameramen and T.V. correspondents of many countries were present.

At the conference hall, the delegations of the NFL and the DRVN Government sat in two separate delegations.

The delegations of the US and the Saigon administration sat side by side.

Tran Buu Kiem, head of the NFL delegation, spoke first. (*Read the full-text page 4*).

After Tran Buu Kiem's speech, Minister of State Xuan Thuy, head delegate of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in an hour-long speech, described the situation on Viet Nam, the correct line of resistance to US aggression, for national salvation, and the great victories recorded by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the entire Vietnamese people.

Minister Xuan Thuy underscored the determination of the Vietnamese people to fight to the end against US aggression. He recalled the four-point stand of the DRVN Government and reaffirmed the latter's full support for the Political program and the five-point statement of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation which are the correct bases for the settlement of the Viet Nam question.

After condemning the Saigon puppet administration for its extremely reactionary and bellicose policy, Xuan Thuy expressed full support for the statement made by Tran Buu Kiem to the effect that the National Front for Liberation is the legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people having full competence to settle all questions relating to South Viet Nam. He said that if the US Government really wants to seek a political solution to the South Viet Nam problem, it must hold serious talks with the Front.

After the speech by Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN Government Delegation, US representative, Henry Cabot Lodge at first plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam rehashed the same contentions made again and again by the US side all through the 8 months of the Paris talks.

He did not say a word about the just demands of the Vietnamese people, as pointed out by Xuan Thuy, and by Tran Buu Kiem, head of the NFL delegation.

In his turn, the representative of the Saigon puppet administration devoted most of his speech to distorting the history of the past 15 years in South Viet Nam. His aim was to cover up the intervention and aggression by the US and conceal the fact that nearly 600,000 American expeditionary troops and satellite troops are daily and hourly trampling on the independence and freedom of the South Vietnamese people and massacring the latter.

Dead against the genuinely representative role of the NFL, Pham Dang Lam even had the cheek to demand the latter's "respect" for the so-called "Constitution" of the Saigon puppet administration, and to promise "ranks and wealth" to NFL fighters.

Speaking again, Tran Buu Kiem, head of the NFL delegation, affirmed the correctness of the NFL delegation in its analysis of the situation. He stressed that the stand of the NFL and that of the DRVN Government are fully correct, while the arguments of the US-puppets are completely wrong. He said that the head of the US delegation had refused to see the fact that it is the US aggression that is the origin of the present situation in Viet Nam.

The head of the NFL delegation pointed out that so long as the US persists in its aggression, the Vietnamese people will resist aggression with determination. He also exposed all the contentions made by the Saigon puppet administration to cover up its traitorous feature and its role as henchmen of the US.

Xuan Thuy, head of the delegation of the DRVN Government, said he fully approved of Tran Buu Kiem's remarks. Refuting the arguments of the US-puppets, he exposed the aim of the US in its demand for the "restoration" of the status of the DMZ, which the delegation of the DRVN Government had refuted many times.

Minister Xuan-Thuy said he reserved for himself the right to make more remarks at the next session.

The second plenary session of the Conference will be held next Thursday (January 30, 1969).

Vietnamese residents in Paris holding a meeting to welcome the SVN NFL delegation to the quadripartite Paris conference on Viet Nam

The hub of the problem...

(Continued from page 1)

colony. It is the United States which has waged the war of destruction with air and naval forces against the DRVN, an independent and sovereign socialist state. It is also the United States which has been stepping up the "special war" against the people of Laos, staged repeated provocations against Cambodia and grossly infringed its independence, sovereignty, security and neutrality. Realities over nearly the past fifteen years in both parts of Viet Nam and on the whole of the Indochinese peninsula have exposed US imperialism as the most wicked aggressor in human history.

Clearly enough, the US imperialists' brutal policy of aggression lies at the bottom of all the sufferings and mournings undergone by the Vietnamese and American peoples. It has not only clouted the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people, but is posing a threat to the independence, sovereignty, security and peace of other countries in Indochina, Southeast Asia and to the world peace. That is the reason why the US policy of aggression in South Viet Nam has been meeting with the resolute opposition of the Vietnamese, Indochinese, American and world peoples.

The people of the South Viet Nam who have fallen victim of aggression must fight it with every means at their command. Over coming countless difficulties and hardships and benefitting by their own unity in their persevering and indomitable struggle as well as the sympathy and assistance of the people around the world, they have frustrated every war strategy and tactics of US imperialism and its henchmen. They and their armed forces, who have become stronger as they fought and registered ever-greater victories, have liberated ofer four-fifths of the territory and eleven out of the fourteen million of their countrymen. The liberated zone has never ceased expanding. The people's revolutionary power has been established everywhere, even in the areas freshly freed from the enemy's grip bordering on the towns and cities. Looking to the NFL with ardent patriotism, our compatriots in the regions still under enemy control are engaged in a fierce struggle against US imperialism, for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, for the formation of a cabinet that stands for the restoration of peace and sesiously takes part in the Paris Conference to talk with the Front.

The success achieved by the South Vietnamese people is that of the NFL's correct political line and clever leadership. It clearly shows that the Front disposes of invincible forces, and is the organizer and leader of their victorious fight against US aggressor imperialism. The Front is in fact a democratic administration. Possessing a far-reaching prestige at home and abroad, it is the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, one who has a decisive say and full competence to settle all problems relating to South Viet Nam. This at the same time lays bare the true colours of Thieu-Ky-Huong as a gang of traitors, filthy agents of the US, who betray the nation's interests. The Saigon puppet administration set up by the Americans as their instrument of agression and domination in South Viet Nam represents nobody at all. Its voice is devoid of whatever value.

That is the glaring reality in South Viet Nam, to which, nonetheless, the US government delegation once again shut their eyes at the first meeting of the four-party conference in Paris. They sought to make black white and bloss over the essence of the Vietnamese issue. The US chief delegate dealt at length with the demilitarized zone as though it constituted the key problem in the restoration of peace in Viet Nam. On his part, the Saigon chief delegate, the mouth piece of the US, did his best to falsify history, cover up Washington's crime of aggression, slander North Viet Nam, deny the patriotic struggle of the South Vietnamese people and the position and role of the NFL, their authentic representative. All that demonstrates that the US government does not yet reconcile itself to departing from its stubborn stand and will of aggression over South Viet Nam, and that it still clings to the rotten political corpse of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration as an instrument to pursue its aggressive war and keep the South Vietnamese people under its sway. It purposely delayed the Paris Conference and, now that its delegates are forced to sit at the negotiating table, continues showing no goodwill and serious attitude.

The Vietnamese and American peoples just as all progressive mankind demand that the US government abandon its obdurate stand of aggression, look in the face of the concrete situation, adopt a realist, goodwill and serious attitude at the Paris conference table. Most obviously, the United States is the aggressor in Viet Nam and is loosing. The South Vietnamese people, under the NFL leadership, are resisting aggression in their own land and are winning.

In order to ensure peace in Viet Nam, push ahead the Paris Conference, and really and correctly settle the South Vietnamese problem, the United States must respect the NFL's position regarding a political solution, end its aggressive war in Viet Nam, withdraw all US and satellite troops and war means from and liquidate all US bases in South Viet Nam, let the South Vietnamese people resolve themselves their own affairs in accordance with the NFL's Political Program, without foreign interference, and seriously talk with the NFL—the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people. This is the only correct way to the reestablishment of peace in Vietnam, the key to correct settlement of the South Vietnamese problem.

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IN STRUGGLE

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Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho (NFL) and Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao (ANDPF) have signed a joint communique on November 3, 1968 concerning the determination of our people in their struggle against US-fantoches
Photo : GPA

US - PUPPET CRIMES DENOUNCED

TRINH DINH THAO'S MESSAGE

Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, former advocate of the Saigon Supreme Court, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, on behalf of the lawyers in the Alliance, on January 10 sent a message to the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL).

The message reads that the Saigon Special military Court, a set-up with no legal basis, and condemned by the lawyers in the world, has illegally sentenced many of our youths, students and pupils.

Nguyen Dang Trung, Chairman of the Saigon students General Council, was sentenced to 10 years hard labour; Nguyen Truong Con, a student, to 5 years hard labour; Nguyen Thanh Cong, Chairman of the Saigon student and Youth Committee for Refugees' Relief, to 3 years in jail; Nguyen Van Luc, a 16-years-old pupil was sentenced to death; Nguyen Van Tu, a student, was sentenced to 15 years hard labour; Le Chi Cuong, a youth, was sentenced to life imprisonment; Vo Thi Thang, a school girl, was sentenced to 20 years hard labour; Phung Ngoc Anh, a girl, was sentenced to life imprisonment, and Khong Qua Minh, another girl, to 20 years hard labour.

On December 27, the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique kidnapped Huynh Quan Thu, a girl student and Secretary General of the Executive Committee of the Saigon Students General Council and Nguyen Minh Duc, a third-year student of the Saigon Normal College on their way home.

Once again, the so-called Saigon Special Military Court on December 28 illegally sentenced student Nguyen Duong Truong of the Saigon Normal college to 10 years, and pupil Nguyen Van Be, to 7 years, in prison.

On December 30, the Americans and their flunkeys kidnapped Dao Thi Nguyet Thanh, a girl student of the Law Faculty, Secretary of the Committee for Refugees' Relief, a social organization of students and pupils in Saigon...

The above-said events prove that the US aggressors and their flunkeys, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, at the end of their tether, have reacted in a savage manner, opposing all elementary norms of civilization, law and justice of mankind.

On behalf of lawyers in the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, we eagerly call on the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and all lawyers in the world to raise their voice to take positive acts to compel the US aggressors and their stooges to set free the Vietnamese patriots illegally arrested and cancel all illegal sentences passed by the so-called Special Military Court.

We believe that your acts will help us South Vietnamese people to push forward our resistance against the US aggressors and their flunkeys to complete victory in order to restore law and justice in our country ".

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVES PROTEST

The students' representatives in *the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces* on January 9 sent a message to the Permanent Bureau of the World Student Congress and the International Union of Students condemning the Thieu-Ky-Huong repression of the students movement in South Viet Nam. *The South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union* had issued a *statement* strongly denouncing to public opinion at home and abroad the repression by the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of a demonstration for peace by students and youths in Saigon on December 24 and their decision to bring several students and youths illegally arrested by them that night to trial at the "special military court".

LFTU: TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES

The South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions yesterday sent an urgent message to the World Federation of Trade Unions denouncing the kidnapping, by the Saigon puppets, of three officials of the Saigon Federation of Trade Unions late in December 1968.

They are Nguyen Van Giao, member of the Executive Committee; Truong Van Thanh, advisor; and Nguyen Van Giot, Chief of the Administrative Office of the Saigon Federation of Trade Unions.

The message strongly denounced to the working class and other labouring people in the world the crimes committed by the US imperialists and their henchmen, in South Viet Nam. It called on the workers in the world, including those in the United States, to take necessary measures to check these fascist acts and to compel the US aggressors and the clique of puppets to set free at once three above-said officials of the Saigon Federation of Trade Unions as well as people of other strata illegally arrested by them on Christmas Day in Saigon.

The ANDPF to the towns people:

Close in Your Ranks, Dash Forward Fearlessly!

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has urged the towns people in South Viet Nam to defeat the US imperialists and their puppets.

In an appeal, the Alliance said :

" The US imperialists and the lachey puppet administration, however, remain very stubborn and have not yet renounced their dark adventurous schemes.

They keep intensifying frantically the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, using on a larger scale and more massively their lethal means. Their B. 52 strategic bombers are showering more bombs on our people both in the countryside and on the fringes of the towns, and new kinds of bombs of unparalleled destructive power have been put to use.

The enemy are increasing their raids and sweeps for the concentration of the population, conducting "accelerated pacification" operations in an attempt to reimpose their brutal rule on the people, and pushing up the espionage " Phoenix " operation to terrorize and murder the people.

At the same time, they have enforced fascist laws, openly arresting, jailing, torturing and manhandling large numbers of town peoples, while overtly repressing the movement which is surging everywhere for the restoration of peace and an end to the war.

Most recently, on Christmas Eve, they brazenly crached down upon thousands of demonstrating Saigon students including Buddhist and Catholic students, and intellectuals who took to the streets to express their desire for peace and demand a " peace restoration cabinet " which sincerely wants a political solution to the South Viet Nam issue.

On the other hand, the enemy are seeking ways and means to ruthlessly exploit the people, through inflation and tax increases. Particularly, they have drastically increased the price of rice in disregard of the already very miserable life of the people.

Alongside these criminal acts, the US and its lackeys— the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique— are intentionally delaying and sabotaging the four-party conference in Paris.

The warlike puppet administration is trying to prolong the US war of aggression in order to preserve its status and interests, at the cost of our people's blood. It fought tooth and nail against the Paris Conference, and ever since it had to go to Paris, under the pressure of the circumstances, it has acted with a visible intention of sabotage that has been seen even by the Western press and certain American politicians.

For their part, the US imperialists are clinging to the decaying corpse of the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration to raise many obstacles to the conference.

Their aggressive nature has also been shown by their refusal of the New Year ceasefire, which was observed by the NFL during three days in line with its humanitarian policy ".

The appeal stressed : " The South Vietnamese people have seen clearly that as long as the warmongering Thieu-Ky-Huong administration remains, there can be no sincere desire for peace, but only sabotage of peace, there can be no true independence, but only slavery ; and there can be no abundance and happinsss, but only hunger, poverty and death.

Therefore, the towns people who, like the rest of the population of South Viet Nam, earnestly desire peace, independence, freedom and life, will not allow these bloodthirsty traitors to live for ever on the sweat, tears and blood of the people.

The hatred for the US imperialists and the lachey puppet administration is burning in the hearts of the South Vietnamese people. The struggle of the masses in the towns and in enemy-controlled areas is surging for the overthrow of the war-like Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and the establishment of a "peace restoration cabinet " which is willing to negotiate with the NFL in order to restore peace as soon as possible and to put an end to the US aggression."

The Alliance expressed the firm belief that " the traitorous and war-like Thieu-Ky-Huong clique is bound to be overthrow and that a "peace restoration cabinet" that sincerely wants peace and is willing to negotiate with the NFL to seek a correct political solution to the South Viet Nam situation will be set up."

Setting trapped grenades by Le Lam

Ready to wait for the enemy by Co Tan Long Chau

Military Note-book

Attacks on a Series of Enemy Positions

First 20 days of January, 1969

Splendid Communication Battles

DURING the first twenty days of the new year, in all the hill, rural and urban areas, from Quang Tri and Thua Thien up north down to Ca Mau cape and from the Western Highlands to eastern Nambo, the victories of the PLAF have resounded in unison with the shouts of all sections of the population engaged in on ever-bitterer struggle against the enemy.

Following are the outstanding features of the theatres of operations in the said period.

1. — *The PLAF and population continously struck at the adversary in all theatres. Our infantry and artillery started successive attacks on a series of key positions and US-puppet main-force units.*

While the American brasshats racked their brains over the intention of the PLAF and hastily reinforced their defence by all possible measures with a view to driving liberation armed forces away from US bases and the urban centres, the latter backed by the people launched repeated attacks in the Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Kontum, Gia Lai, Dac Lac, Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan, Tay Ninh, Binh Long, Phuoc Long, Tin Dau Mot, Bien Hoa, Gia Dinh, Long An, My Tho, Ben Tre, Kien Phong, Kien Tuong, Vinh Long, Chau Doc, Go Cong, Rach Gia, Soc Trang and Ca Mau.

The US First Infantry Division and Air mobile cavalry Division and the 9th Division of the Saigon army encountered staggering blows in Tay Ninh, Thu Dau Mot and Binh Long. At the same time the US 9th Infantry Division and the puppet 21th Division was badly pummeled in Kien Phong, My Tho, Rach Gia and Ca Mau while the US 4th and 25th Infantry Divisions incurred heavy losses in Gia Dinh—Tay Ninh and Gia Lai. The US marine Division Americal and 101st Airborne Division also suffered bitter losses in Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Thuan and other regions. On the other hand, bringing into play their experiences, creative combat methods, resourcefulness and versatility and closely coordinating their various services, the PLAF made deep and powerful thrusts into US and puppet important bases, CPs, airfields, storages and premier of leading organs. US military bases in Hon Quan, Cu-Chi, Dau Tieng, Binh Duc, Pleiku, etc..., were subjected to repeated attacks. The American airfields in Thu Dau Mot, Can Tho, My Tho, Quang Ngai, Kontum and Pleiku, the CPs of the US 8th Infantry Division at Binh Duc (My Tho) of the 4th Infantry Division at Pleiku and the 101st Airborne Division at Huong Thuy (Thua Thien), as well as the US armory in Quang Ngai, have experienced the heavy pounding of Liberation troops' artillery. In particular, the Cantho airfield was hit successively on Dec. 13 and 14 and on the two days according to GPA, 75 US aircraft and helicopters were destroyed. The 9th Infantry Division's chopper pad at Binh Duc lost at least 6 aircraft, including that of its commander, general Iwell.

2 — *Splendid communication battles outbroke in succession on road and waterways, chopping the enemy's supply lines and destroying a considerable amount of their war means.*

Highway Nos 1, 4, 13, 14 and 19, and almost all the provincial and inter-provincial arteries have in fact become "bloody roads" for the enemy, littered with carcasses of military vehicles. On January 8, 9 and 11 the Binh Long PLAF fought three brilliant engagements on highway No 13, destroying 43 military cars — among which member many tanks and APCs — and entirely wiping out or heavily decimating 6 US and puppet companies. Meanwhile, in a mine-ambush lasting a few minutes on Highway No 14, Kontum regional troops destroyed a whole convoy of 9 vehicles along with all their personnel and weapons.

Clever in land-communication fighting, the PLAF have also distinguished themselves in river-communication battles. In ten days beginning Jan. 2, Liberation troops in Bien-Hoa sank or set afire 8 US military transports, including 3 12.000-ton vessels on the Long Tau river network. On Jan. 16 those of North Quang Tri sank 2 others to the bottom of Cua Viet river. At the same time, guerillas and regional forces in Xeo Ro, An Bien district, Rachgia province, sank or set afire 28 out of the 60 LCTs and killed or wounded no less than 100 of the raiders operating in the area The strategy of the US-puppet "river fleet" in the entangled water system of the Mekong delta has also been lamentably frustrated with considerable losses for the adversary.

3 — *Owing to their rapid growth both in number and quality, the three categories of the PLAF have checked all of the US-puppets' "accelerated pacification" operations.*

Since the early days of the year the enemy have been striving to carry into effect their "accelerated pacification program" so as to restore their grip over the rural areas liberated by the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam in the course of their generalized offensive and uprising.

Indeed, their operations undertaken within the framwork of the "Certain victory" campaign what they described as the "Viet Cong's solid bases" in the Mekong delta, were smashed by the PLAF and population of My Tho, Sadec, Hatien, Camau, Rach-Gia, Bac Lieu and Can Tho provinces. Note worthy was the break-up of the massive raid in the U Minh forest by 60,000 US and puppet troops in late Dec. 1968 and early Jan. this year: 1,000 (200 Americans) were killed or injured, 32 warships sunk or set afire, 7 aircraft shot down or damaged. Simultaneously, on the Central Trung Bo theatre, Quang Nam Liberation forces and people, after foiling the so-called "model accelerated pacification operation" started by 7,000 US-puppet and satellite troops in the Dien Ban region, registered a major victory in Dai Loc district. They inflicted over 1,000 casualties since the latter days of December last year. As for the large-scale "sweep" launched on Jan. 14 by more than 8,000 US and puppet officers and men in Ba Lang An, South eastern Son Tinh, operation considered by western news agencies as "the biggest of the Viet Nam war", it has met with the stubborn resistance of Quang Ngai PLAF and population.

This twenty-day balance-sheet of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam who "fight so that the Yanks quit and the puppets topple" once again testifies to their steady position and inexhaustible strength as well as the perplexity and incurable impotence of the US aggressors and their lackeys.

The series of our simultaneous surprise-attacks and uprisings in the last twenty days gave no respite to the adversary and have kept them in a tense situation and under permanent threat. A hard fact which has given the lie to their allegation that "there is a lull in the military situation" and that the Viet Cong are not strong enough to launch new offensives", etc. — allegation obviously aimed at maintaining the morale of their troops. In the meantime they have changed their field commanders and the disposition of their forces to cope with an eventual attack by the PLAF on Saigon and the Mekong delta provinces.

The enemy wanted to drive the liberation troops away from their bases and the towns, but their efforts to this end has been lost labour.

LONG BINH

In Washington

ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS ON NIXON'S INAUGURATION

ON the occasion of Nixon's inauguration as President of the United States large crowds of Americans marched on Washington on January 19 and 20 to demand an end to the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and protest against the warmongering policy of the US ruling circles, in response to a call of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam (USA), according to foreign reports.

On the eve of the inaugural day some 10,000 American youths and other people held a mass rally in front of the Washington Monument near the White House and then marched along the Pennsylvania avenue.

They carried placards reading: "Nixon's the one-number one war criminal", "Billionaires rule-Nixon's their tool", "Aggression in South East Asia, Shame to USA!" and "The NFL Will Win!"

It was the first time a demonstration of this size had been held in connection with a presidential inauguration, Reuter remarked.

At the forefront of the marching column stretching over half a mile were a group of active duty servicemen opposed to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Using rocks, mud and sticks as weapons, the demonstrators valiantly fought against a large police force.

On the night of January 19, Nixon attended an inaugural concert, anti-war protesters held their own "counter-inaugural" ball, after marching through Washington streets and chanting, "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh" and other slogans protesting against the Viet Nam war.

The demonstrators also blighted a reception for incoming Vice-President Spiro Agnew held at Smithsonian Institute.